Ryan Padraig Kelly

What a great life. Ryan Padraig Kelly born in County Armagh, Ireland on 6th March 1980. My first vivid recollection of life is standing in my grandmother Brigid Kelly's food store on the edge of McCrory Street in Armagh City and making the long slow walk to my first day at Saint Patrick's Primary School in Armagh City. Initially I hated the place and often could be found literally in tears at both break time and at lunch time in doors. Gradually my love of the place began to develop in tandem with my burgeoning love of the beautiful game of football. I thoroughly enjoyed perfecting the beautiful game on the cul-de-sac where I grew up in Armagh City, Alexander Gardens. Wonderful memories of playing on the school football team in a tournament at the Orchard Leisure Centre in Armagh City against local primary school teams in the Armagh City and district area. Unfortunately I was deemed too small to play. Wonderful memories of playing on the school GAA team. One game sticks out in my mind. A game against Keady Primary School in Keady when I scored a remarkable Marco Van Basten style goal to win the game and being punched by an unidentified Keady player whilst coming off

the field of play. That player I suspect that I worked with at Sean Graham’s Bookmakers in Armagh City a number of years later. Obtaining the necessary grade “B” in my VRT that enabled me to study at Saint Patrick’s Grammar School in Armagh City. The principal at the time Mister Maxwell threatening to place me on detention for writing on VRT test paper in permanent ink. Suffice to say that common sense prevailed and my uncle Brian Kelly who was a teacher there at the time ensured that no such action occurred. Being taught by Mrs Pickering and Mrs Cullen in my early years and by Mr Patsy Nugent in my latter years. Wonderful ladies at Saint Patrick’s Primary School including Deborah Burns, Caroline Hughes, Michelle McCoy and Francesca Rice. Fellow pupils at Saint Patrick’s Primary School in Armagh City including Ronan Shields, Gavin McNaney, Lorcan Vallelly, Philip Murphy, Joseph Marley, Damian Daly, my best friend Edmund Toal, John-Paul Donnelly who went on to play for the Armagh GAA team, Mark Mulgrave and Patrick Russell to name but a few. Who could ever forget Patrick Russell’s American football that he used to bring in at both break time and lunch time to play with? School trips to places such as the Argory on the outskirts of Armagh City and Belfast Zoo.

Perfecting the beautiful game in Sherry's Field on a team run by Mister McKee who told me a number of years later that his son had developed a drugs problem. Playing for Orchard Youth, a cross-community soccer team both roman catholics and protestants growing up in Armagh City. Playing against teams in the local County Armagh area including Lurgan Boys Club, Portadown Boys Club, Maghaberry, Armagh Boys Club and Armagh Youth Centre to name but a few. One game sticks out in my mind. A game against Portadown Boys Club who were the top team in the area at the time and routinely beat us. On this particular occasion at Milford Playing Fields where we moved to after playing at the Old Holm at Milford, we were winning by seven or eight goals and I was having an outstanding game until at a corner kick, I went to head a ball and instead of heading the ball, headed an opposition player on the back of the head. Suffering from severe concussion and being totally blind, I was lead from the field of play barely able to walk. The only other time that I have suffered from severe concussion and the same affects was whilst playing football in the school yard at Saint Patrick's Grammar School in Armagh City when the exact same incident occurred. Trips with Orchard Youth to the north

west of England to play football against local teams in Liverpool and Manchester. Travelling by bus from Armagh to Larne. Travelling on the ferry to Stranraer and Cairnryan. Travelling by bus down through Scotland to be based in the north west of England. Staying in hotels, youth hostels and bed and breakfast facilities in Liverpool and Manchester. Going to Alton Towers, visiting the Manchester United museum and superstore. Visiting the Mayor of Manchester at a reception at Manchester Town Hall with Paddy Crerand. The players filling their boots with food. Watching Manchester United play Manchester City at Old Trafford in the Manchester derby in 1991, Manchester United winning courtesy of a Ryan Giggs goal. Watching Everton play Arsenal at Goodison Park a number of years later when Arsenal were the Premier League Champions. Fellow players at Orchard Youth including Stephen Reid, Glen Warnock, Glen Henderson, Damian Daly, Philip Murphy, Edmund Toal, Joseph Marley, Stephen Murray, Darren McAuley, Darren McArdle, Brian McKee and Tomas Dougan to name but a few. Managers including Niall Kelly, Glen Warmington, Ronnie McConnell and Brendan McArdle.

Playing for the Armagh Harps at underage level. Winning the Armagh Harps under twelve player

of the year award. Defeating Keady in Granemore in the mid Armagh under twelve championship final. One game sticks out in my mind. A game against Middletown in Middletown when local vigilante Martin Slevin stepped up to take the winning score in front of the posts. Missing, dying of embarrassment, scaling the local fence and running away whilst the managers Mr Agnew and Mr Morris suitably retrieved Martin Slevin. The players had to duly wait on the bus. Fellow players at the Armagh Harps including Eamonn Hughes, Stephen Doran, William McSorley, Edmund Toal, Philip Murphy, Joseph Marley and Edmund Toal to name but a few.

Studying at Saint Patrick's Grammar School in Armagh City. Obtaining high level grades in my GCSEs and A levels which enabled me to study at the Queen's University of Belfast. An A in history, an A in business studies and a B in mathematics at A level. Playing football in the school yard at both break time and at lunch time. Playing basketball in the school gymnasium. Cross country running in the College Fields in the depths of winter. Playing on school football and GAA teams. Abseiling, canoeing and mountaineering in Killowen. Watching a play by Brian Friel, "Philadelphia Here I Come" at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast. The headmaster at the

time Brother Kelly placing me on detention for sitting on a window ledge in doors at lunch time. Making me clean up the school yard after school. Being taught art by Ms Donnelly, mathematics by John “Hitler” Marley, history by Mr Kane and mathematics by Brother Ennis in my latter years. Fellow students including Paddy McKeever who went on to play on the winning Armagh GAA football team in 2002 in their all-Ireland winning year. Kevin McElvanna, David Murray, Colm Boylan and Gareth Lavery to name but a few. Gary O’Connor, Gareth Ryan, Gareth Kerr, Joseph Marley, Damian Daly and Philip Murphy to name but a few.

Holidaying throughout Ireland during the course of my life including County Antrim, County Down, County Armagh, County Derry, County Monaghan, County Cavan, County Dublin, County Donegal, County Galway, County Cork, County Kerry, County Wexford, County Waterford, County Limerick, County Kildare, County Louth, County Tyrone, County Wicklow and County Carlow. Buying sticks of rock in places such as Donegal. Walking along the beach in Donegal and County Louth at Carlingford. Playing crazy golf and walking along the cliff edge at Trabolgan in County Cork. Visiting family in the form of Kathleen and Eddie Browne in Gorey, County

Wexford. Visiting museums in County Waterford. Going to the cinema in County Dublin. Caravanning and camping in Shankhill in County Dublin. Travelling on the Luas and the Dart. Fishing at Gosford Forest Park in County Armagh. Walking along the walls of Derry. Watching the Milk Cup with the County Armagh team in Derry and Antrim. Going to the amusements in Portrush. Caravanning and camping throughout Ireland including Kilbroney Forest Park in County Down. Climbing many mountains. Staying in bed and breakfast facilities, hotels and hostels throughout Ireland. Visiting Barney and Peggy McCourt in County Kildare and walking the dogs along the Curragh.

Studying at the Queen’s University of Belfast. Staying with my cousin Philip Kelly in my first year at Mount Charles just off the university campus. Walking in Botanic Gardens, studying in the Seamus Heaney Library and the tall story library. Going to the cinema off Botanic Avenue. Eating out on Botanic Avenue. Watching Manchester United play in Europe in their treble winning season 1998/9 at the Globe Bar at the top of Mount Charles against Barcelona and Bayern Munich. Exercising in the university gymnasium. Being taught by the nutty professor Istemi Demirag in international financial

accounting. Taking four years to complete a three year degree. Suffering from acute shyness, depression and really the cumulative effects of having been hospitalised twice with severe concussion whilst playing football as previously mentioned. Obtaining a second class honours second division classification in accountancy as a consequence of my medical problems which has been subsequently revised to a first class honours classification in accountancy. Travelling by bus and by car in my second and third years with my father Niall Eugene Kelly.

Working at Sean Graham’s Bookmakers in Armagh City whilst in my latter teenage years whilst playing for Armagh City reserves.

Working in the Northern Bank. Firstly in the Northern Bank’s head office in Belfast which coincided with the biggest bank robbery in the history of the UK and Ireland in 2004. Working in an open plan office at the back of Belfast City Hall in a street parallel to Adelaide Street. Overviewing accounts both personal and non-personal to make sure that they complied with anti-money laundering legislation for both National Irish Bank and Northern Bank. Working with the manager Laura McAllister and the staff including Pamela Smyth, Joy Taylor, Ms

Dinsmore, Elizabeth McAreavy, the funny Brian Geddis, Ms Burns, John Cullen, Christopher Roberts and the delightful Pauline Fyffe to name but a few. Staff nights out in places such as the Italian restaurant on Botanic Avenue, ten pin bowling at the Odyssey Arena and many other such wonderful nights. Working in Donegall Square North and Donegall Square South head offices with the fraud department including the head of the fraud department Paul “The Fraud” Brown who confided in me that they do not like protestants in Newry and that was why he was heading up the fraud department in Belfast. The wonderful David Higginson the head boy in the fraud department in Belfast. Working in the Northern Bank in Portadown with the managers William Edmund Gillis and Colin Richard Patterson. The staff including Jackie Kerr, Rosemary Wilson, Stephen Anderson, Gillian Colvin, Olive Guy, Dean Armstrong, Rosemary Davenport and Orla Reid to name but a few. Staff nights out such as at Christmas at Portadown Golf Club. Working in the Northern Bank in Aughnacloy with the manager Teri Hughes and his wonderful staff in County Tyrone. Working in the Northern Bank in Markethill with the staff including Ruth Hamill and Andrew Donaldson. Working in the Northern Bank in Tandragee with

Donal McKenna. The Northern Bank in Keady with Patricia Smyth and Gabriel McElvanna. The Northern Bank in Armagh with the staff including the manager Angela McGeown, Jacqueline Burns, Noelle Nugent, Christine Irwin, Frances Leeman, Marian O'Neill, Justin Lloyd Lawson, Ruth Bradford and Andrew Tecey to name but a few. Working in all areas of banking. Staff nights out to places such as the Armagh City Hotel at Christmas. My wonderful career in banking.

Holidaying throughout the world at large with family and friends including to Niagara Falls in Canada, Penetanguishene in Canada, New York City to visit my sister Bernice Kelly, Boston and Connecticut to visit my uncle Christopher Kelly and his family including Mary and Michael Kelly. The UK and Ireland. Saint Jean de Monts with Niall Kelly, Sheila Kelly, Marianne Kelly and family friends Eamonn Donnelly, Brigid Donnelly, Ryan and Kerry Donnelly in France. Moscow in Russia to watch Manchester United defeat Chelsea in the Champions League Final in 2008 with my father Niall Kelly. Visiting Dubrovnik in Croatia and Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina with my mother Sheila Kelly on an Irish pilgrimage with the Armagh diocese. Visiting Rome in Italy with my mother Sheila Kelly. In geographical order rather than chronological order.

Amongst the many cultural and sporting highlights of my life would be watching in the flesh, Manchester United defeat Chelsea in the Champions League Final in 2008 in Moscow, Russia at the Luzhniki Stadium with my father Niall Kelly, Comply Or Die win the Grand National at Aintree with my mother Sheila Kelly and Kauto Star performing at the Down Royal Race Festival whilst watching Cork defeat Kerry in the All-Ireland Football Final in 2009 at Croke Park with Armagh defeating Mayo in the minor final an undoubted highlight.

Wonderful neighbours down through the years including next door, Bernard and Slyvia Geraghty and their son David Geraghty. Phil Quinn, Peter Quinn and their sons and daughters including Ronan and Edel Quinn. The Guy family including, Josie Guy and Charlie Guy. Their sons and daughters including Brian and Austin Guy, Shona and Cathy Guy. Least we forget Charles Guy. The other Guy family including Michelle and Eimear Guy. The Donnelly family including Brigid and Eamonn Donnelly and their son and daughter Ryan and Kerry Donnelly. The McGuigan family including Mary, Ryan and Kyle McGuigan. The Lavery family including John and Kathy Lavery. The Cullen family including Margaret, Eimear, Rory and company. The Devlin family including

John Devlin. The Kelly family including Brian, Monica, Mary, Paul, Martin, Philip, Adam and Rachel Kelly. The McKay family including Gene, Valerie, Paul, Stephen and Conor McKay. Mrs McGill. The Crumley family including Donna, Richard and David. The McCarthy family including John, Layla, Damian and Bronagh McCarthy. The Houlahan family including Paddy, Margot, Pat and Oliver Houlahan. The Mackle family including Pearl,Donal, Neil, Helen and Caoimhe Mackle. The McParland family including Gus and Sue McParland and their offspring including Siobhan McParland. The Stevenson family including Brendan Stevenson and company. The Darragh family including Aoife, Gerard and Stephen Darragh.

Friends as already mentioned and family and extended family including, Niall Kelly, Sheila, Alun, Celine, Bernice, Aisling and Marianne Kelly. Uncle Brian Kelly and Aunt Monica Kelly and their sons and daughters, Mary, Paul, Martin, Philip, Rachel and Adam Kelly. Uncle Kieran Kelly and Aunt Marie Kelly. Sons John-Paul and Patrick Kelly. Uncle Christopher Kelly and Aunt Mary Kelly and their son Michael Kelly. Uncle Dominic Kelly, Aunt Kathleen Kelly and their sons and daughters including Martin, Jean, David and Sheena Kelly. Uncle Brother Patrick Toner. Uncle

Jim Toner, Geraldline Toner, son and daughters, Darragh, Louise and Grainne Toner. Uncle Donal Enright, Aunt Maureen Enright, sons and daughters, Gerard, Michael, Kevin, Denise and Sarah Enright. Grandfather James Toner and grandmother Brigid Kelly and grandfather James Kelly.

The wonderful life of Ryan Padraig Kelly and associates.